

Covid-19 pandemic and 3D Printing

28.5.2020 D.Sc. (Tech.) Mika Salmi Research Director, Aalto University Digital Design laboratory

Some actions in Aalto related to covid-19

Act early: remote teaching & research – laboratories temporally closed, now opening with restrictions

Help example in:

Modelling of the spread in aerosols
Statically analysis of the spreading
Helsinki GSE situation room - economics
Help to establish local manufacturing, 3D printing etc.

Expected that funding for University will decrease next year – especially external funding.



3D printing

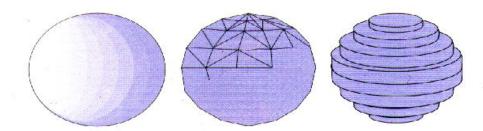
From 2D slices to 3D form

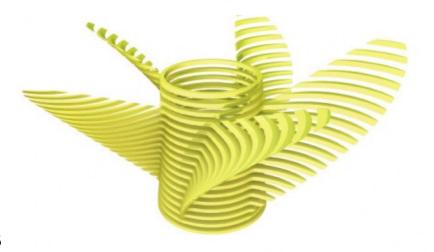
- -simple & easy for automation
- Building layer by layer

3D model

STL

Layers





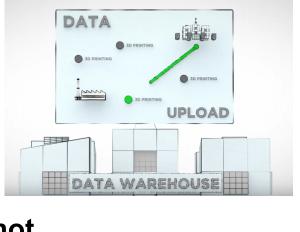
Some of current challenges

- Extreme high global need of certain medical stuff
- Limited manufacturing in most of countries
- Availability of certain parts/products/raw materials
- High prices & delivery times
- Export restrictions
- Maintenance restrictions in traveling



Possibilites of 3D printing

- No minimum order quantities
- Reduction of delivery time
- Local manufacturing
- Data can travel where physical parts cannot
- Parts do not have to pass through borders / customs
- Positive environmental impact use only needed material
- Upgraded parts
- Emergency parts
- Repairing existing components





3D printing examples for covid

Nasal swaps for taking sample for testing

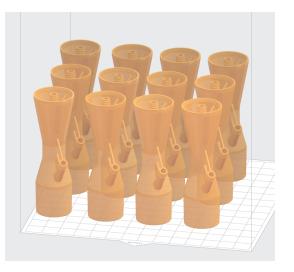


Face mask + lid





Holder face shield



Venturi valve



Other possibilities for 3D printing

- Spare parts for hospitals, factories, waterworks etc. Keep up the things running
- Increase the local manufacturing not so depended on global supply chains
- Innovation potential optimize the geometry and product
- Continuous improvement cycle



Key takeaways



- In 3D printing need to know which process and material to select. Universities have knowledge.
- If there is a problem solution might be closer than you think
 open your eyes and share the problem
- We need to work together: companies, government, universities etc. We are in the same boat!
- Need to take risks that can be controlled! Do not hide behind normal protocols and regulations!
- Not approved one might be better than having none at all

Questions?

Mika Salmi, D.Sc. (Tech.)
Research Director, Aalto University Digital Design laboratory
Staff Scientist, Aalto University, Department of Mechanical Engineering
P.O.Box 14300, Fl-00076 Aalto, Finland
Visiting address: Puumiehenkuja 5, Espoo
mobile +358 50 512 2746
mika.salmi@aalto.fi